

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00257 121604Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1747

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 257

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK,EI

SUBJECT: ROYAL VISIT TO ULSTER: RESTRICTED BUT SUCCESSFUL

REF: BELFAST 250

1. HER MAJESTY AND DUKE OF EDINBURGH SCORED GREAT PERSONAL TRIUMPHS IN VISITS TO HILLSBOROUGH AUGUST 10 AND TO NEW UNIVERSITY ULSTER AT COLERAINE AUGUST 11. DUKE ALSO VISITED HARLAND AND WOLFF SHIPYARD AUGUST 10 AS SUBSTITUTE FOR QUEEN WHO HAD BEEN ASKED TO NAME COASTAL CORPUS CHRISTI AUGUST 11. AMERICAN FLAG TANKER IS 330,000 TONS AND LARGEST SHIP BUILT IN BRITISH ISLES. BETWEEN GARDEN PARTIES, SHIPYARD AND TWO EVENING RECEPTIONS ON YACHT, ROYAL COUPLE WAS IN PROXIMITY OF 10,000 RESIDENTS OF NORTHERN IRELAND AND SPOKE WITH ABOUT 1000. LATER INCLUDED SOME CATHOLICS IN PRIVATE LIFE INCLUDING PEACE WOMEN BUT NO RPT NO CATHOLIC CLERGY OR POLITICIANS WERE EVIDENT. VISIT MARKED FIRST FLIGHT BY QUEEN ON HELICOPTER AND FIRST ROYAL INVESTITURE TO BE TELEVISED. QUEEN MADE MOVING SPEECH CALLING FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION AUGUST 11.

2. THERE WERE NO RPT NO SERIOUS INCIDENTS INVOLVING VISITORS.

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PAGE 02 BELFAS 00257 121604Z

MOST DRAMATIC EVENT WAS SINN FEIN MARCH DOWN FALLS ROAD AUGUST 10 WHEN ABOUT 2000 MARCHERS WERE STOPPED BY ARMY/POLICE BARRICADE AT CASTLE STREET, BELFAST. IN SUBSEQUENT RIOTING, PERPETRATED BY LESS THAN 100 YOUTHS, SOLDIER AND POLICEMAN AND ONE CIVILIAN HURT AND SEVEN YOUTHS ARRESTED. ONE BRITISH OFFICER WAS SHOT AND SERIOUSLY WOUNDED CLEARING ROAD BLOCK ON FALLS LATER THAN EVENING. PROVISIONAL IRA WARNED THAT SECURITY BREACHED ON

NEW UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MORNING AUGUST 11 BUT FESTIVITIES
PROCEEDED. ONE POUND BOMB EXPLODED ON CAMPUS SOME HOURS AFTER
DEPARTURE ROYAL ENTOURAGE. IT BELIEVED COLERAINE BOMBS ARE
NEW TYPE THAT CAN BE TIMED TO DETONATE AFTER DELAYS IN EXCESS
OF 12 HOURS AND IT LIKELY BOMB WAS PLANTED BEFORE AUGUST 11.

3. THERE MAY BE NO TANGIBLE REWARDS FROM ROYAL VISIT BUT
REAL LOSERS HAVE BEEN PROVISIONAL IRA. PROVISIONALS FAILED
IN THEIR THREAT TO DISTURB PROCEEDINGS AND IN THE FRENZY OF
DESTRUCTION WITHIN REPUBLICAN AREAS THEY HAVE WEAKENED WHAT
LITTLE POPULAR SUPPORT THEY STILL HAVE. UNFORTUNATELY,
ATTITUDE OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY LEADERS TOWARD
VISIT WILL MAKE THOSE FEW UNIONISTS, WHO JUST MIGHT HAVE BEEN
CONSIDERING POLITICAL RECONCILIATION, RETREAT TO THEIR TRIBAL
BARRICADES. MUCH CREDIT FOR THE SMOOTH MANAGEMENT OF THE VISIT
CAN BE SHARED BETWEEN THE SECURITY FORCES AND THE NORTHERN
IRELAND OFFICE. IN SECURITY AND IN ADMINISTRATION DETAILS FROM
DRAWING UP THE GUEST LISTS TO BRIEFING THE PRESS THE MASON TEAM
DID AN EXCELLENT JOB.SPICER

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